



# Ministry of Defence

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Ref: ArmySec/FOI2019/12703/03/03

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[Redacted]

2 December 2019

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 6 November in which you requested the following information:

*“The number of soldiers serving with the battalions which make up the Royal Regiment of Scotland who have failed drug tests in 2018 and 2019 thus far.*

*I would like this information broken down by year, substance involved, rank/job title of staff member, and the outcome of disciplinary proceedings against them”.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held and is below.

The table below shows the number of soldiers serving with the battalions which make up the Royal Regiment of Scotland, who have failed Compulsory Drug Tests (CDT) and the outcomes:

Year	Personnel tested positive	Discharged	Retained
2018	50	50	-
As at 17 October 2019	30	20	10

Table notes:

- Please note that these figures are single service estimates and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics.
- Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
- “-” denotes zero or rounded to zero.
- The number of personnel that have not been discharged will reflect that some individuals may not yet have been processed through the discharge or retention process.

The substances tested positive for at CDT were Cocaine, Cannabis, MDA, MDMA and Trenbolone. The ranks of the soldiers who tested positive for these substances were Private, Lance Corporal, Corporal and Sergeant.

Under Section 16 (Advice & Assistance), please note that the Army does not tolerate drug abuse within its ranks as it is incompatible with military service and operational effectiveness. Soldiers caught taking drugs can expect to be discharged. The Ministry of Defence uses Compulsory Drug Testing which seeks to reinforce the message that drug use is unacceptable in Service personnel.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,



Army Secretariat